

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 2, 2015

Arts Commission Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Nancy Stewart, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Nancy Stewart, Kathy Anderson

Members via teleconference: Linda Levell, Al Rent, Sherry Stark

Members absent:

Arts Commission staff present: Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci

1. Welcome and Introductions. Commission Chair Nancy Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Consent Agenda. Nancy Stewart noted, without a quorum present, the committee cannot vote on action items. The Executive Committee will reconvene prior to the December 11, 2015 Quarterly Business Meeting to approve today's agenda, meeting minutes from September 9 and 18, 2015, and any action items on today's agenda.

3. Financials.

A. FY2016 YTD

- i. Arts Commission Deputy Director Miah Michaelsen presented the FY2016 YTD Budget (attached) newly revised on November 12th.
- ii. Ms. Michaelsen brought attention to the 16% variance in personnel costs, explaining that the percentage of NEA funds allocated for salaries have not been reported by accounting. Only the State funds have been posted. She continued that these reports will be a work in progress as we rebuild the queries that have been previously put in place for reporting data.
- iii. Ms. Michaelsen presented the Bicentennial Programs, Capacity Building and PACE Project Budget (attached), elaborating on specific funding reallocation recommendations. Since all budgeted funding for the Arts in the Parks program will not be used, even after applying funds for marketing, ASCAP licensure and staff/artist training, it is recommended that the remaining balance be cascaded into the Indiana Masterpiece program, since there is a clear "need and opportunity to support additional projects." Lewis Ricci stressed that because the Indiana Masterpiece grants span 2 fiscal years, the Commission will actually be allocating money for a budget that has yet to be approved. Discussion ensued voicing concerns and factors to consider in approving these amounts prior to those amounts being secured. Mr. Ricci added that in review with the State

Budget Agency there were no hesitations in proceeding. Ms. Michaelson continued, outlining Capacity Building projects to be funded and noted the original budget will not change for this program. It is further recommended that current PACE programs receive \$10,000 in additional funding

- iv. Because of unknowns relative to the Governor's Arts Awards, contingency funds have been added to buffer against these additional costs.

Nancy Stewart opened the floor to discussion. With no objections and by unanimous consensus the committee approved these funding recommendations.

B. Cultural Trust

- i. Mr. Ricci presented the Cultural Trust Financial update noting total revenue of \$66,097.42 and remaining available interest of \$22,103.96, in which the Commission is budgeted to draw \$5,000 in this fiscal year. While interest rates showed slight increases, other scenarios are under consideration to maximize the return on interest. As stewards of public funds, Mr. Ricci continued, we have an obligation to those donors who have given on behalf of the cultural purposes of our State. Because new legislation is required to change these scenarios, he cautioned that we must be deliberate and forward thinking about the causes and effects of these changes. Nancy Stewart expressed her wish that rack cards be distributed to Commissioners at the next business meeting for distribution among the various groups and organizations they belong to.
- ii. Low-number issued plates currently have no policy in regards to granting and retracting. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) which delineates, in collaboration with the Governor's office and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, guidelines for this policy. Discussion surrounding these stipulations commenced. Ms. Stewart suggested discussion of these policies with the full Commission in December prior to motioning for approval, with a vote more feasible at the March meeting.

4. Commission Appointments. Mr. Ricci reported that 2 new commissioners, Ruth Ann Cowling and Libby Chiu, have been appointed by the Office of the Governor. Ruth Ann Cowling, recommended by Senator Ron Grooms, has a long history as an arts educator and practicing artist. Libby Chiu, who has worked with many arts organizations, is currently an adjunct professor at Goucher College. Commissioner Micah Smith was also reappointed for another 4 year term. Since Suzie Rentschler's retirement and with Karen Ellerbrook and Pam Hicks continuing to serve, there is one vacancy that has yet to be filled.

5. Grant Recommendations – Indiana Masterpiece & Arts in the Parks. Mr. Ricci presented the funding recommendations (attached) for the Arts in the Parks and Indiana Masterpiece grants as discussed and forwarded for recommendation by the Programs, Grants and Services Committee. Special note was given to those who will and will not receive funding. Ms. Stewart opened the floor for discussion and questions. The

committee agreed unanimously to move the funding recommendations to the full Commission.

6. Strategic Plan Progress. Ms. Stewart thanked Commissioner Sherry Stark for heading the strategic planning effort. Mr. Ricci reported that the steering committee meeting dates have been established, the first one set for February, 12th, 2016. Ms. Michaelsen further reported on data collected from the artist and general patron surveys which will be discussed with Brian Blackford and collated into presentable data. In collaboration with Jamie Levine Daniel of IUPUI a short survey for community leaders will be distributed asking them how they engage with arts in their communities. This is projected to go out in early January of 2016. Ms. Michaelsen concluded that with the percentage of response there will be plenty of data to dive into when the time comes.

7. Statewide Creative Industries Study. Mr. Ricci reported that the Arts Commission has contracted with Arts United to complete a statewide economic impact study. It will result in data collected by region for the entire state equivalent to the same study they completed for the Fort Wayne area.

8. “New Lay of the Land” Grant Levels Revisit. Ms. Michaelsen reported that we are convening a study group, with Commissioner representation, to look at our allocation for AOS and Regional Arts Partners, focusing on equity across funding categories, programmatic impact, criteria and final reporting requirements. The proposed timeline for this project begins in February to hopefully wrap up in August to present at the September 2016 Commission meeting. FY18 would be the first round of grants to be affected. Mr. Ricci added that these outcomes could fuel an advocacy effort, resulting in increased funding to accommodate this new lay of the land. He further stressed that in this process, we must be mindful of many variables to achieve equality across like organizations, while remaining relevant to our constituents. Commissioner Kathy Anderson furthered the discussion, citing Stellar Community programs and their approach to concentrating funds from many agencies into one community, as opposed to those funds being dispersed among many. Ms. Anderson further invited the commission to start thinking about how we would like to be a part of this program. At present, the Arts Commission is represented in their vetting process. While the Commission does not currently have community level grants, Ms. Michaelsen concurred that funds into organizations that are doing broader based work, as opposed to individual projects, is worth consideration for level of impact.

9. Governors arts awards. Mr. Ricci reported that the Governor’s Arts Awards itinerary has been finalized by the Governor’s office. The reception at the Governor’s residence begins at 4:00 PM. The awards ceremony will begin at 5:30 PM on Saturday, April 9th at the Schrott Center for the Arts. Awardees Wes Montgomery, David Hochoy & Dance Kaleidoscope, Robert & Ellen Haan, The American Pianists Association (Jazz Fellowship Awards), Jim Davis & PAWS and Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds have all accepted. David Letterman has been nominated but has yet to accept. Daren Redman, contemporary quilter from Nashville, Indiana, has been chosen to create the awards. Commissioner Trevor Yager, owner of Trendy Minds and Think Ahead Studios, will be

providing the video production at no cost. Sponsorships are being raised to eliminate fees for entrance to the governor's reception and to help underwrite performances.

10. Executive Director Annual Review. Nancy Stewart will be obtaining input from Arts Commission staff and other Commissioners to complete and submit a review for Executive Director, Lewis Ricci. Kathy Anderson interjected that it is always good to review others against their own goals.

11. Other items of Concern for the Quarterly Business Meeting. The Quarterly Business Meeting will convene from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. so that a small group from the Arts Commission can present newly approved bicentennial projects to the Bicentennial Committee, which is meeting in the State Library on the same day from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The Arts Commission will need to join the Bicentennial meeting at 11:00 a.m. December 11th is also Statehood Day. There will be a public, pre-Bicentennial event in the Statehouse at approximately 11:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend this event after the meeting.

12. Old Business/New Business. There was no old or new business.

13. Adjourn. Commissioner Nancy Stewart adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.